dweep and Pondicherry have Panchayati Raj system with varying degrees of powers and functions. The Union Government have been impressing on the State Governments on the need to hold timely elections to these bodies and give them adequate powers and functions so that they become vibrant instruments of popular participation in the development process.

Assistance to Divorced Muslim Women

3060. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether WAKF Boards have given any assistance to the divorced Muslim Women till this date; if so, the details thereof and the number of divorce given to Muslim women during the last one year:

(b) whether it is a fact that the High Courts are awarding substantial amounts to divorced Muslim women; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to help divorced Muslim women not supported by Wakf Boards on their parents or the divorcing husbands?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) As part of their welfare activities the Wakf Boards give assistanec to the poor and the needy which may include divorced Muslim Women also. However, no specific data is available in respect of this category of beneficiaries There is no practice of recording all divorces amongst Muslims. As such it is not possible to collect authentic information on the number of divorces given to Muslim Women.

(b) There is no such report with *Government.*

(c) Provisions have already been made in the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986 for granting maintenance to divorced Muslim Women and there is no further proposal under consideration.

Central Assistance to Cooperatives of Fishermen

3061. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the central assistance given to Fishermen Cooperative Societies in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years; year-wise; and

(b) the new central schemes envisaged for the development of fishermen villages in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) The National Cooperative Development Corporation has released the following financial assistance to fisheries cocperative in Andhra Pradesh *during 1985-86, 1986-87 and* 1987-88.

(Rupees in Lakh)

1985-86	1986-87	1987-88
11.188	47.669	80.999

(b) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme *viz.* National Welfare Fund for fishermen has been approved during Seventh Five Year Plan for development of 62 model fishermen villages in 17 States and one Union Territory including 5 fishermen villages each in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu with housing, drinking water supply, community hall and credit society.

Incentives to vegetable growers in Andhra Pradesh

3062. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any incentives are being given to vegetable growers in